

Conservatives' campaign chaos as extent of millionaire donations revealed

The Conservatives election campaign is in chaos as the extent of their millionaire-backing is revealed, Labour Leader Jeremy Corbyn says today.

In the latest in a string of errors and about-turns, Defence Secretary, Michael Fallon's pledge that people would pay no more tax under the Tories was immediately contradicted by Theresa May, who refused to rule out a tax hike on working people, through rises in income tax or higher National Insurance contributions.

The Tories were already reeling from the chaos and confusion over their plans for social care and where they would set the cap they originally said they had rejected, and were forced to withdraw their school breakfasts policy after it was exposed they had only set aside 6.8p per meal.

The threat of further Tory tax rises on working people comes as it was revealed just 49 individuals have donated more than a third of all Tory party funding since Theresa May became Prime Minister.

In contrast, Labour's manifesto clearly commits to no income tax, National Insurance or VAT rises for 95 per cent of taxpayers, with big businesses and those paid more than £80,000 a year asked to pay a bit more to reverse years of underinvestment in our NHS, schools and other public services.

Jeremy Corbyn, Labour Leader, said:

"First social care and school breakfasts, now the Tories are in chaos over their tax plans for the super-rich, as it is revealed they are entirely dependent on them for their funding. While Michael Fallon claims there will be no tax rises, Theresa May refuses to rule them out. You can't trust a word the Tories say.

"Labour is the low tax party for the many while the Conservatives are the low tax party for the few. We won't raise taxes for 95 per cent of taxpayers but will ask high earners and big

businesses

to pay a little more so we can give nurses and other public servants a pay rise, and invest in the public services we all rely on.”

**Andrew Gwynne, Labour’s Joint National Campaign
Co-ordinator, said:**

“The Tories are bankrolled by millionaire bankers, tycoons and hedge fund bosses – the very people they’ve given tax breaks to while everyone else pays more. In contrast, Labour is funded by thousands and thousands of people making small donations because they want a better society for everyone.

“Labour’s plans are fully costed and fully set out in our manifesto for everyone to see. The only numbers in the Tory manifesto are the page numbers. The wheels are coming off the Conservatives’ election campaign, with Theresa May hiding from the public, refusing to debate Jeremy Corbyn, and backsliding on social care, NHS and schools funding, and now their tax plans.”

SNP manifesto: what it means for young people

We have now launched our manifesto for the General Election on 8 June. It sets out how we will ensure that there is strong opposition to a re-elected and increasingly hard line Tory government at Westminster.

The Liberal Democrats are now the only real party of business

As the former Business Secretary I can’t not intervene at this decisive moment in British politics.

In a speech this week I condemned the Tories and Labour for turning their backs on the economy, and explained that the Liberal Democrats are the only real party of business.

You don’t have to take my word for it. Today the Lib Dems were endorsed by

none other than The Economist. And a letter in the Financial Times from prominent tech figures also backs us.

Both Labour and the Conservatives are adopting a Brexit strategy that seems explicitly designed to inflict maximum economic damage. The storm clouds are already gathering – we are seeing rising inflation, falling real wages and rising personal debt.

Only the Lib Dems have a positive economic plan, including boosting spending while still achieving a surplus on the current budget.

GENERAL ELECTION 2017 BULLETIN:

> Business Policies Comparison

POLICY

- > Fight to keep Britain a member of the Single Market
- > Commitment to keeping Britain in the Customs Union
- > Freedom of movement for high skilled workers
- > No increased charges for employing non-EU workers
- > Review to reduce burden of business rates for SMEs
- > Corporation Tax 20% or less
- > Fight to support pan-European IP rights and high level participation in the Digital Single Market
- > Keeping top rate of income tax to under 50%
- > No repeal of the Trade Union Act including compulsory collective bargaining
- > Double the spend on innovation
- > UK-wide high speed broadband
- > Action against tax avoidance
- > Major new programme of capital investment
- > Removing unnecessary regulation to support new markets and investment

Conservative

Labour

Lib Dem

X	X	✓
X	X	✓
X	X	✓
X	X	✓
X	X	✓
✓	X	✓
X	X	✓
✓	X	✓
✓	X	✓
X	✓	✓
X	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓
X	✓	✓
✓	X	✓

Theresa May keeps insisting that no deal is better than a bad deal, but an extreme Brexit could be disastrous. Theresa May just doesn't seem to care. If we crash out of the Single Market and customs union, respected independent estimates suggest that our trade will slump by almost a third by 2030.

Meanwhile, Labour's plans for a spending spree funded by taxing the rich and corporations have been described by the IFS as wholly unrealistic, and will certainly scare off the investment and talent that are fundamental to our global economy.

The Lib Dems are the only party that genuinely recognises the crucial role of entrepreneurship in generating job creation, innovation and productivity.

As our endorsement by The Economist shows, we are rapidly becoming the only party of business.

Vote Lib Dem on 8th June.

[Tories challenged to come clean on their plan for a 'Dementia Tax' and Winter Fuel means test](#)

Labour is calling on the Tories to come clean on how many pensioners will be hit by their plans for a dementia tax and means testing for Winter Fuel Payments.

With six days to go until voting, Theresa May has still not ended the uncertainty facing millions of pensioners.

Tory plans to scrap universal Winter Fuel Payments could hit as many as 10.8 million pensioners, according to a Labour analysis of Pension Credit data.

Meanwhile, the Tories are still refusing to give a figure for the cap they will put on their dementia tax, the name given to their plan to force people to pay for social care with their homes.

An analysis by the Labour Party shows the effect of the Tory dementia tax on older people living in a house worth the average UK price of £217,500

if
the cap is set at £72,000 or £100,000 and they find they need home care at
the
capped level.

At a cap
of £100,000, a person in this situation needing the capped amount of care
would
lose 42 percent of the value of their estate. The more someone's house is
worth, the lower the percentage they would lose.

Labour
has set out its pledges to older people – maintaining the triple-lock on
state
pensions to protect incomes, investing £37 billion into the NHS and £8
billion
into social care over the next parliament and protecting Winter Fuel Payments
and free bus passes.

**Jeremy Corbyn, Leader of the
Labour Party,**

commenting on this analysis, said:

“It is staggering that just six
days from polling day millions of pensioners still don't know what's in store
for them if they are unlucky enough to get dementia or any other condition
that
needs care in the home.

“The dementia tax is itself unfair
but what's made matters even worse is the way Theresa May announced a cap and
then failed to say how much it would be.

“Alongside this, older people face
the additional uncertainty of not knowing who will be eligible for a Winter
Fuel Payment. The introduction of a means test could mean more than ten
million
people losing the payment.

“Theresa May's only offer to
pensioners is insecurity and cuts. Labour will stand up for older people by
maintaining the triple-lock on state pensions, investing £8 billion into
social
care over the next parliament and protecting winter fuel payments and free
bus
passes.”

70 pct of Beijing tap water comes from Yangtze

More than 70 percent of the tap water in Beijing's main urban areas comes from the Yangtze River, thanks to a huge water diversion project that was designed to ease water shortages in the north.

Beijing has received 2.28 billion cubic meters of Yangtze water since the south-to-north water diversion project began pumping water into the city in December 2014, Beijing Waterworks Group said in a report Saturday.

It said the project had increased Beijing's water supply capacity to 3.72 million cubic meters a day, ending the water shortage the capital experienced every every summer.

Before Yangtze water diverted to Beijing, the city's daily supply capacity was 3.2 million cubic meters at most and water sources, mainly from underground, were susceptible to calcium and magnesium salts.

At least 11 million people in Beijing have benefited from the water diversion project so far, according to Beijing Waterworks Group.

"Residents in high-rise apartment buildings used to suffer water crunches in summer. On some of the worst days, there was no water for cooking or washing," said Fang Yajun, chief of the water authority in Tongzhou District, east Beijing.

"Their problems will soon be solved, with a new waterworks that will open this summer to supply 200,000 cubic meters of water daily," he said.

The new waterworks in Tongzhou District, the city's "subsidiary administrative center," is fed by Yangtze water and will double Tongzhou's daily supply capacity, said Fang.

Among the 2.28 billion cubic meters of Yangtze water pumped to Beijing since the end of 2014, about 1.58 billion cubic meters has gone to water supply companies. The rest is stored in reservoirs or used as groundwater, river and lake supplies.